A YANKEE MAIDEN'S STRATAGEM.

Miss Rebecca Bates died at Scituate, Massachusetts, recently, at the age of eighty-eight years. In 1812 the borders of Massachusetts Bay were looked after by a number of British cruisers. Inhabitants of the fishing villages were forced to band themselves in a sort of military fashion, and repel by arms attacks made upon their chicken coops. The maritime enemy had their hearts set on poultry, which was natural, considering their long and forced subsistence on tough salt meats. To thwart them was to excite their anger and malice, and not unfrequently, failing to get chickens, they resorted to harsh measures in retaliation. In the spring of the year named a British frigate ran into Scituate harbor, set fire to the vessels and seized others, and threatened, if resistance was offered, to bombard the town. When the frigate departed, citizens of Scituate banded themselves into a home guard and fortified Crow Point with a brass cannon. The British took the hint and stopped away, and gradually, as alarm subsided, the home guard went about its farming.

September came. One pleasant evening of that month, Miss Bates, then a maiden of eighteen, sat sewing. Her sister, Abigail, fourteen years old, and her mother sat with her. Captain Bates, the father, likewise the keeper of the lighthouse, was away, and the home guard were scattered all about. Mrs. Bates had just said to Rebecca that it was time to put the kettle on. The maiden rose and went into the kitchen. Glancing through the window as she passed she saw a British frigate close at hand and about lowering her boats. In her own narrative of the occurrence Miss Bates says that she knew the ship at a glance as La Hogue, and she called out to her sister:

"O, Lord, the old La Hogue is off here again! What shall we do? Here are their barges a coming; and they'll burn up our vessels just as they did afore."

Two vessels lay at the wharf laden with flour, and Miss Bates in her narrative says, "We couldn't afford to lose that in those times, when the embargo made it so hard to live we had to bile pumpkins all day to get sweetening for sugar." Her quick mind decided to repel the enemy by a stratagem. The musical instruments of the home guard were stored in the house. She could play four tunes on the fife, and her sister Abigail could beat the drum in an exceedingly wild manner. "Yankee Doodle" was their masterpiece.

The idea thus conceived was quickly put through. Rebecca and Abigail, with the drum and the fife, ran down behind the cedar wood, and in a moment the quiet September evening was startled by the most remarkable martial outburst that ever was heard. "I looked," said Miss Bates, "and I could see the men in the barges resting on their oars and listening. Then I saw a flag flying from the masthead of the ship, recalling them. My sister began to make a speech, and I said, 'Don't make me laugh, for I can't pucker my mouth.' When the men in the barges saw the flag they went about so quick that one fell overbord, and they picked him up by the back of his neck and hauled him in."

A quarter of an hour later the La Hogue sailed away, the strains of "Yankee Doodle" pursuing her.

"NUMBER 117."

A good thing, at a fair held awhile since in the city of Boston was the art gallery, and the best of the art gallery was No. 117. This mysterious number caused a great deal of fun. The young lady-attendant was well suited for her position, keenly enjoying a joke.

During the fair, while she was alone with the works of art, a young gentleman sauntered in, inspected the exhibition of talent, laughed at the puns, and was about to retire.

"Oh, you have not seen 117?"

The young fellow looked at his programme:

"117—'One sweet kiss before we part.'"

He blushed, and gave a hesitating step toward the door, and again looked at the lady. She piteously continued:

"That is my duty-to show you; that is why I am here."

The color grew deeper on the poor fellow's face. He looked as though his faith in woman's modesty had received a death-stroke—as though men were down-trodden and oppressed.

The lady advanced toward him, took his hand and laid in it the biggest sugar kiss that you can buy at a confectioner's. With a sigh of relief, and a guilty, confused look at his own thought, the modest young man burst into a laugh, and confessed it was the best joke of the fair.

THE PUG DOG.

The pug dog is highly esteemed by dog lovers, for what it would puzzle Paul to tell. Certainly not for his beauty, although tastes differ about dogs, as in other things. He is comparatively a modern institution, not generally known or owned in the United States until about 1870, and in England only during the last quarter of this century. His origin is in doubt, and dog fanciers have discussed the point learnedly, only to settle his paternity as being of a Muscovite or Dutch origin. Many contend that he is a cross between the English bulldog and the small Dane. But be this as it may, he is very widely distributed, for he is known and petted in England, Russia, France, Holland, China and Japan. His popularity is certainly a caprice of fashion for, in the whole catalogue of the canine species, there is not one of less utility or one that possesses less attractions than the pug. Granting him a modicum of intelligence and a more than ordinary degree of cleanliness, and we sum up all of his good qualities. As to the standard of excellence in the different points in the pug, no dog ever created a wider discussion and more varied opinions. Suffice it to say that a typical pug should be square, or what the English call "cobby," in body, with a short, round head; nose snubby, but not retrousse; ears short, thin and velvety, and black in color; eyes, large, bold and black, and very bright. The black on the face should be intense, running in a straight line across the forehead and including the eyes. The fashionable color for the body is known as the "apricot fawn," but the great consideration is to have the color, whatever its shade, decided enough to make a very marked contrast with the black line along the back.—*Philadelphia Times.*

ELECTRIC LIGHT IN THE STOMACH.

The Vienna *Neue Freie Presse* gives an account of an instrument invented by Dr. J. Mikuliez, instructor at the university, which enables a physician to subject every part of a patient's stomach to an ocular inspection. It consists of a tube which is thrust down the throat after the fashion of the sword-swallowing jugglers. The tube contains an insulated conductor of electricity, two water canals, an air canal, and a wide opening for the optical apparatus. The stomach is emptied by means of a stomach-pump previous to the introduction of the apparatus, and is then inflated through the air tube. At the bottom of the tube are two windows, one on each side, through which the walls of the stomach can be seen, the requisite light being furnished by an incandescent platina coil which is connected with the conductor. In order that the examination may not be disturbed by coughing or vomiting on the part of the patient, he is treated to a dose of morphine which enables him to endure the presence of the instrument for ten or fifteen minutes, while retaining sufficient consciousness to converse with the physicians by means of signs. It is apparent that this instrument will prove of inestimable value to medical science.

THAT IRON SCREW.

It is not generally known that the Pilgrims on board the Mayflower held a consultation in mid-ocean, and that the finding of an iron screw among their supplies caused the voyagers to keep on their way toward America.

With one hundred and two precious souls on board, the solitary vessel set out on her perilous voyage from Plymouth, September 16th, and shortly encountered heavy autumn gales. She proved a stanch ship, or she would surely have gone to the bottom when the hurricanes swept down upon them with torrents of rain. For days they ran under bare poles, shipping heavy seas. The seams of the upper works opened. It was then that the consultation, upon which so much depended, was held, and a survey made to see if the timbers would hold together.

One of the main beams was found to be bowed and cracked. There was a large iron screw, fortunately, among the dunnage in the hold, brought over from Holland. By means of this they succeeded in springing the beam back into place, and being half-across, decided to make for the western shore. Meanwhile, the passengers sought fresh air on deck at the risk of their lives.

In one storm, a young man ventured out of the hatchway, and was thrown overboard by a lurch of the vessel. He caught the end of the topsail halyards, and ran them out for their whole length, holding on under water till he was dragged to the surface and fished on board with a boat-hook. There was one death at sea, and one child—Oceanus Hopkins—was born.

After sixty-four days of buffetings, having made Cape Cod, and vainly endeavored to keep to the southward for New York Bay, their original destination, getting entangled in the shoals and nearly shipwrecked, on the twenty-first of November (Saturday) they were brought to anchor in Provincetown harbor.—*Phila. Sat. Night.*

An exchange says a man would rather live with a cross-eyed woman than with a cross-mouthed one.

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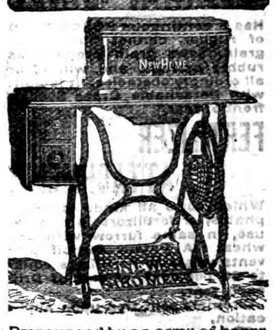
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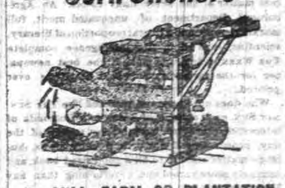
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